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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 10 bis

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Mr. Alfonso Martínez: draft resolution

1997/... Role of the Sub-Commission in the promotion, full realization and protection of the rights of children and youth

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 51/77 on the rights of the child and 51/76 on the girl child and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1996/85 and 1997/78 on the rights of the child,

Reaffirming that in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, national and international mechanisms and programmes should be strengthened for the respect of all rights of all children,

Encouraged by the widespread commitment and political will shown by the large number of States that have become parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Profoundly concerned, nevertheless, at both the lack of realization and continued violations of the rights of children and youth in many parts of the world, due, inter alia, to lack of resources and inadequate implementation of the instruments mentioned above and other relevant national and international standards,

Reaffirming that all States have a duty to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments to which they are parties or have accepted and emphasizing in this regard the importance of the full implementation by States parties of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Aware that at both the national and the international level the norms relating to the promotion and protection of the human rights of children and youth are adopted, implemented and monitored by adults and that violations of those rights are also mainly committed by adults, facts which highlight the importance of education aimed at making adults more aware of the mentality, needs and predicaments of children and youth in a given society,

Having considered the report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery on its twenty-second session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/13),

Mindful of the general and other recommendations included in the Working Group's report, in particular those relating to the sexual exploitation of children, the protection of minors from exposure to or involvement in pornography, illegal and pseudo-illegal adoptions aimed at the exploitation of children, allegations of removal of organs from children for the purpose of commercial transplants and non-therapeutical research, the exploitation of child labour, the sale of children, child abuse and the exploitation of children,

Convinced that the Sub-Commission can and must play a positive role in the promotion and protection of the rights of children and youth,

Aware that owing to the large number of United Nations treaty and non-treaty bodies concerned with the promotion and protection of the human rights of children, the role to be played by the Sub-Commission in this field should not duplicate the action and terms of reference of those bodies,

1. Expresses its deep appreciation to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, to its Chairperson-Rapporteur, Ms. Halima Embarek Warzazi, and to its other members for the work relating to the rights of children and youth carried out at its twenty-second session;

2. Expresses its deep conviction that the Sub-Commission can best play a constructive role in the promotion, full realization and protection of the rights of children and youth by drawing upon the expertise of the various United Nations organs, bodies and legal instruments, as well as of the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations directly or indirectly involved in this sphere, in order to contribute, by means of specific recommendations addressed to them, to improving coordination and cooperation among those entities so as to facilitate concrete action aimed at the realization of all rights of all children and youth.

3. Decides to continue to review annually, as a separate item of its agenda and with due priority, the situation regarding the promotion, full realization and protection of the rights of children and youth, and to provide for sufficient time for its consideration at its fiftieth session.